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SERVICE NEWS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Benton, Miss Mildred

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EDUCATION IN CONSERVATION

As a result of the course in Conservation of Natural Resources given at the North Texas State Teachers College last summer, five institutions of higher learning and numerous secondary schools have requested information on cooperative plans by which they may secure the same national leadership and participation in planning and conducting similar courses. Dean B. B. Harris reports that the Denton institution is now perfecting measures to ensure that every Texas school so desiring shall have an opportunity to benefit by a like program during the 1939 summer session.

The six weeks course given at Denton last summer had an enrollment of nearly 800 and a total attendance of more than 3,000 students and visitors, the latter including newspaper and magazine editors, bankers, college presidents, merchants, agricultural leaders, SCS and CCC officials, doctors, clergymen, lawyers, fishermen, engineers and farmers. Those enrolled, in addition to students training to be teachers, were college, high school and elementary school teachers, and public school superintendents and principals.

The section of the course devoted to soil and water conservation consisted of ten lectures given by the Chief, Helen M. Strong, in charge of Educational Relations, W. J. McConnell, President of the College, and seven members of the Texas field staff. CCC officials guided the class over Denton County farms where demonstrational conservation work has been done. The interest manifested in the course would indicate that education of this type will doubtless become a part of the curriculum in many institutions in Texas.

FLOOD CONTROL SURVEYS

AUTHORIZED

The Secretary of Agriculture has authorized flood control surveys on 26 United States watersheds, and work has begun on the 14

following, according to an announcement made by R. H. Davis, Head of the Flood Control Surveys Section:

Merrimack	St. Francis
Youghiogheny	Kickapoo
Buffalo Creek, N. Y.	Fountain Creek
Coosa	Washita
Tallahatchie	Upper Gila
Muskingum	Los Angeles
Trinity	Boise

The Soil Conservation Service is cooperating with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in carrying out this survey program.

RADIO NOTES

The first consecutive series of radio dramatizations ever offered by the Service, the WLW "Fortunes Washed Away" program, will be continued indefinitely. Originally scheduled for 20 weeks, the series has been prolonged because of the large amount of mail response to the programs. F. E. Charles, who handles the information work in Region 3, advises that comments have been received from 16 States.

The present programs dramatize the efforts of typical progressive farmers in the Ohio Valley to conserve their soil. The Chief and Acting Director J. J. McEntee of the CCC have appeared on past programs. Scheduled for October is C. A. Smart, author of the best-selling "R. F. D."

The series is broadcast each Saturday at 6:00 p.m., E. S. T., from Station WLW, Cincinnati, Ohio.

On September 14, the SCS presented a feature broadcast from Spokane, Wash., on the NBC's National Farm and Home Hour. J. H. Christ, Acting Regional Conservator, Region 11; Fred Mark, Manager of the Pullman-Moscow project; and George Swales, a farmer living near Pullman, took part in the broadcast.

Beginning September 25, the Service's time on the Farm and Home Hour will be shifted from Tuesday to Friday. The Hour will continue to go on the air at 11:30 a.m., E. S. T., until late October.

SOUTH AFRICA TO COPY
MINNESOTA PROJECT

The Gilmore project of the SCS at Winona, Minn., will be used as a model for erosion-control work in the Union of South Africa, according to H. R. Roberts, one of the British conservationists who have been studying the Service's program during the summer months. Mr. Roberts, an engineer in the Department of Native Affairs, says that the Union's problem is similar to ours; and that during the five years that his department has been employing control practices, it has constructed 3,000 miles of terraces, placed many thousands of earthen dams in gullies, and done considerable re-forestation work. "However," he stated, "your strip farming, contour furrowing, and use of small brush dams is new to us."

The Department of Native Affairs concerns itself with Negro tribes living on reservations, where they do crude farming and raise livestock, cattle constituting their cash crop. The men do the plowing and seeding, but the women cultivate, reap, and thresh the grain, Mr. Roberts said.

FIELD TRIPS FOR WASHINGTON
PERSONNEL

In response to a memorandum sent to all Washington office personnel of the SCS, some 200 employees have notified C. P. Emery, Acting Chief Personnel Officer, that they would be interested in making a tour of one of the Service's project areas.

This idea originated in the Fiscal Section, where several members of the office force suggested to G. G. Smith, the Section's Head, that they would like to become better acquainted with the Service's work in the field. Mr. Smith consulted Administration Chiefs F. J. Hopkins and Samuel Goodacre, who asked Mr. Emery to find out how many employees would like to take such a trip.

As a preliminary to the tours, those who answered Mr. Emery's memorandum were addressed by H. C. Diener of the Section of Erosion Control Practices, who described the various phases of the Service's work they would observe in the field.

To date, four groups of approximately 30 persons each have visited the CCC camp area at Boonesboro, Md., where technicians conducted them over several farms, explaining conservation methods in use on each and their purpose. Luncheon was served at the camp. The next trip has been arranged for September 23, and others will be scheduled from time to time during the fall. Interested employees should notify their supervisors, who will forward their names to C. G. Swain, Chief Placement Officer, Room 306, Standard Oil Building.

INFORMATION CONFERENCE

To discuss the role of information work in soil conservation district activity, information representatives from Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 came to Washington for a four-day conference beginning August 29. Also up for discussion were refinements in visual information work, new radio policies, the conduct of educational relations, and land-use coordination activities of the Department.

Alan Dailey, Charles Maitz and Monroe Campbell from Region 1; Barrington King and Bert B. Robinson from Region 2; F. E. Charles and Ewing Jones from Region 3; James Hammett and David O. Davis from Region 4; and Les Combs and Walter John from Region 5 were the field men attending the conference. Among others, they heard H. H. Bennett, Dillon S. Myer and J. Phil Campbell of the Service; Milton S. Eisenhower, Coordinator of Land Use Planning; and Wallace Kadderly, Acting Chief of the Department's Radio Service.

ILLINOIS DATA EXAMINED

At Urbana, Ill., last week, information assembled through cooperative economic research studies made in that State was examined by the following:

H. M. C. Case, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois,

B. B. Clark, representing the State Coordinator's office;

Leslie Wright, of the Des Moines, Iowa, Regional office,

W. J. Roth, Head of the Economic Research Section,

C. W. Collier, of the Section of Erosion Control Practices.

Object of the meeting was to chart a future program based on the observable effects of soil and water conservation in Illinois demonstration areas where records have been kept.

SERVICE GEOLOGISTS

C. W. Thornthwaite, Head of the Section of Climatic and Physiographic Research, has to date received 27 responses to his request for the

names and addresses of all Service members who have had geological training.

The 27, all from the field, are soils technicians and soils surveyors located in 17 States in the West and Midwest. All have degrees in geology and have had some experience along geological lines.

It is asked that SCS employees with similar background send their names, addresses and a statement of their present activities to Dr. Thornthwaite.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS MEET

The Soil Conservation Service was represented at the Fifth International Conference of Agricultural Economists, which met last month at MacDonald College of McGill University, just outside Montreal, Canada, by W. J. Roth, Head of the Economic Research Section.

Over 400 representatives came from 19 countries to attend the conference, which stressed in its papers and discussions the social implications of economic progress in present-day agriculture, and allied topics. Secretary Wallace and Under Secretary M. L. Wilson, who headed the USDA delegation, both read papers, Mr. Wilson on "Social Implications of Economic Progress in Present Day Agriculture," the Secretary on "International Trade in Relation to Agricultural Development."

Two German economists, M. Rolfes of Berlin and W. Seedorf of Gottingen, were among the foreign delegates who stopped in Washington to see members of the Department after the conference closed.

COOPERATION WITH DISTRICTS

E. A. Norton, Head of Conservation Surveys, last week attended a meeting held at Atlanta, Ga., in connection with the program of a soil conservation district including Green County. As of September 6, the Service has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with 44 districts located in 12 States.

NOTES

Soil Conservationist N. E. Winters will spend several weeks in Puerto Rico studying technical aspects of SCS work there which may be useful in developing a conservation program for the Hawaiian Islands, where he is now stationed.

H. D. Abbot, in charge of the Service's CCC activities, has just returned from an inspection of project and camp areas in Regions 6, 8, 10, and 11.

Enroute to Washington from the agricultural economists' conference at Montreal, W. J. Roth, Head of the Section of Economics of Soil Conservation, visited the experiment stations at Storrs, Conn., and New Brunswick, N. J., to discuss with personnel many aspects of economic research in cooperation with the SCS.

Agricultural Economist P. B. Boyer came to Washington from the Stillwater, Okla., office last week to confer with members of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and SCS personnel on further plans relative to rural sociological research in cooperation with the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station.

G. R. Stewart, Assistant to the Chief, Division of Research, was in Ithaca, N. Y., last week, inspecting the work under way at the SCS experiment station and discussing future research operations with John Lamb, Jr., Superintendent of the station.

M. L. Nichols, who is acting as Chief of the Research Division in Dr. Lowdermilk's absence, returned late in August from an extended trip through the West and South, where he visited project and regional headquarters.

Dillon S. Myer, Assistant Chief of the Service, A. L. Patrick, Chief of the Division of Watershed and Conservation Surveys, and Leland Barrows, Executive Assistant to the Chief, left September 15 for an inspection tour of Region 8 and parts of Region 6, to be gone until October 3.

A. L. Patrick, Chief of the Division of Watershed and Conservation Surveys, has left for Lamar, Colo., where he will join an inspection party headed by Assistant Chief D. S. Myer. Dr. Patrick visited Region 1 last week, and will spend the early part of October going over work areas on the West Coast.

INDEXES AVAILABLE IN THE
LIBRARY

Among the indexes recently added to the Library are the following:

Agricultural Index

Bibliographie Geographique

Biological Abstracts

Chemical Abstracts

Current Monthly Record of Forestry Literature
(Imperial Forestry Institute, University of Oxford)

Engineering Index

Experiment Station Record

Industrial Arts Index

These indexes are available for reference use in the Library.
They are not for circulation. With but few exceptions, the files
are complete.

